

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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American People Observe United Nations Week

Study of UN's Organization and Its Problems Can Strengthen World Body

ON January 1, 1942, the 26 nations at war against the Axis powers signed the United Nations Declaration. They bound themselves to fight until victory against their enemies and to work together for a better world after the conflict ended.

Inspired by this Declaration, Stephen Vincent Benet, the noted poet who died in 1943, wrote the following United Nations Prayer:

God of the free, we pledge our hearts and lives today to the cause of all free mankind. . . . Grant us honor for our dead who died in the faith, honor for our living who work and strive for the faith, redemption and security for all captive lands and peoples. Grant us patience with the deluded and pity for the betrayed. And grant us the skill and valor that shall cleanse the world of oppression and the old base doctrine that the strong must eat the weak because they are strong.

Yet most of all grant us brotherhood, not only for this day but for all our years—a brotherhood not of words but of arts and deeds. We are all of us, children of earth—grant us that simple knowledge. If our brothers are oppressed, then we are oppressed. If they hunger, we hunger. If their freedom is taken away, our freedom is not secure.

*Grant us a common faith that man shall know bread and peace—that he shall know justice and righteousness, freedom and security, an equal opportunity and an equal chance to do his best, not only in our own lands, but throughout the world. And in that faith let us march toward the clean world our hands can make. Amen.**

No time could be more appropriate than now to reflect on the worthy goals and ideals set forth in Benet's prayer. This is United Nations Week in our

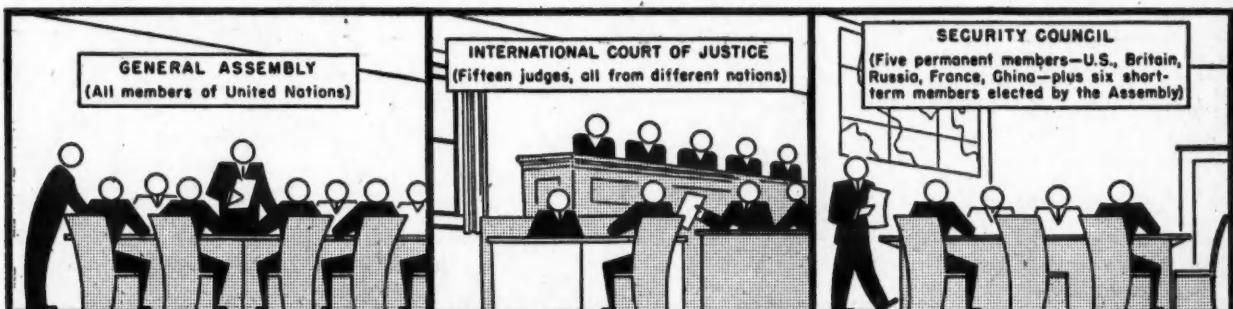
current issue to the UN—its accomplishments, failures, and the great problems before it today. We shall begin with a brief review of the various branches of the organization, explaining what they can and cannot do in dealing with the world's troubles and ills.

Security Council. This is the most powerful branch of the UN. It consists of five permanent representatives from the United States, Russia,

by each of its Big Five members. As is well known, no important step can be taken by this agency if any one of the major powers objects. Even if 9 or 10 members desire to take forceful action in a dispute or conflict, nothing can be done if one of the big nations makes use of its veto privilege. The Security Council can discuss international conflicts, but it cannot act upon them unless all the Big Five are in agreement.

chosen by the General Assembly. No nation, engaged in a dispute involving international law, is compelled to go before the Court. When, however, two countries in conflict voluntarily take their case to the Court, they must abide by its decision.

Economic and Social Council. It is of outstanding importance, even though it has nothing to do with trying to settle disputes among nations. The aim of this agency is to eliminate



THE TWO CHARTS on this page show the major branches of the United Nations

France, and China, plus six other countries chosen for two-year terms by the UN General Assembly.

The Council has power to investigate any dispute or fighting which "endangers international peace and security," to recommend settlements, and to ask UN members to take action against nations which ignore its decisions. In short, its principal duty is to prevent aggression and war.

There are two reasons why the Security Council has had great difficulties in performing its duties. One is that Russia and the western powers have not been able to agree upon a plan for establishing a UN military machine. Without the threat of force to back its decisions, the Council cannot be as effective as it otherwise could. Fighting nations can defy its orders

General Assembly. It is the largest division of the United Nations, and the one in which all members are represented. Delegates of the 58 UN member-nations come together at Assembly sessions to study and discuss problems of general world interest.

All nations have an equal voice and vote at these meetings. Major decisions are made by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present; less important questions require only a simple majority. No nations have the veto power in the Assembly. While this body does not have authority to take direct action in disputes which "threaten the peace," as the Security Council does, it can discuss such conflicts and, under certain conditions, it can make investigations of them.

Despite its inability to take forceful

unfavorable living conditions which cause hardship and dissatisfaction in many regions of the world, and which help to bring strife and war. It is dealing with problems of food, housing, education, health, human rights, and working standards.

The Council is composed of 18 members who are elected by the General Assembly for terms of three years. It has a number of committees at work on specific problems. In addition it cooperates closely with all other UN agencies working on social and economic matters.

Trusteeship Council. Its duties are to supervise territories taken from defeated nations in World Wars I and II, and to take charge of dependent areas UN members turn over to it.

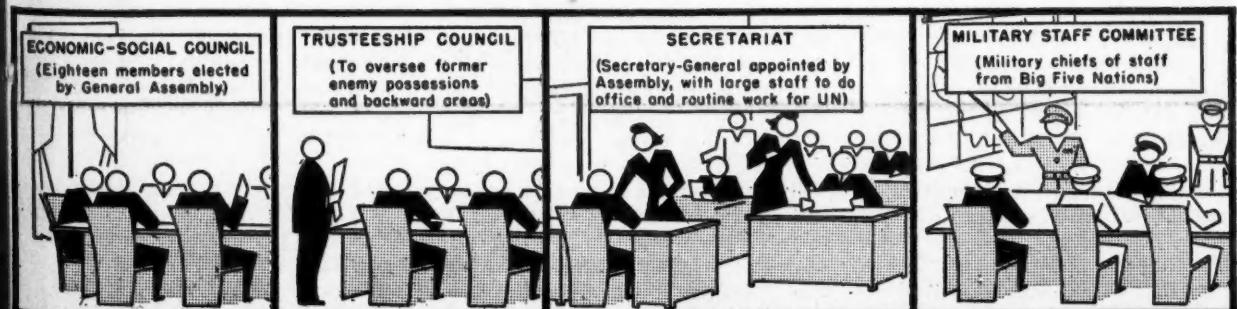
In most cases, the Council does not directly govern dependent lands, but instead puts them under supervision of various UN members. The supervising nations, known as "trustees," must report regularly to the Council.

Secretariat. This organization is the permanent office force of the United Nations. It keeps records, employs translators, and assists the various UN agencies in other ways. It is headed by a Secretary-General, chosen by the Assembly for a five-year term.

These are the more important branches of the United Nations. In addition to them, there are a number of specialized agencies in this world organization. They cannot force nations to carry out their recommendations, but they try to persuade them to do so.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is working with numerous nations in the effort to help them increase their farm output and thereby reduce hunger and malnutrition.

(Concluded on page 2)



country. In Paris, the UN General Assembly and Security Council are grappling with problems of life-and-death importance to peoples everywhere.

The purpose of United Nations Week is to promote widespread information about the aims and workings of this world organization. THE AMERICAN OBSERVER is participating in the occasion by devoting a large part of the

without much risk of punishment.

The Council has a Military Staff Committee which is supposed, by now, to have drawn up a plan for organizing a UN "police" force. Members of the Committee are top-ranking military men from the Big Five powers. To date, however, they have been unable to work out any plan agreeable to Russia and the western nations.

Another serious obstacle in the way of the Council is the veto power held

steps, the Assembly has proved to be an effective body. When two-thirds or more of its members favor a certain course of action in dealing with an important issue, their opinion is not taken lightly. Even Russia has shown a healthy respect for the Assembly when it has shown itself to be overwhelmingly against the Soviet position on a particular issue.

International Court of Justice. This "World Court" consists of 15 judges

* Prayer from "We Stand United and Other Radio Scripts," published by Rinehart & Company, Inc., copyright, 1942 by Stephen Vincent Benet.

United Nations Accomplishments to Date

Organization Is Doing Much to Lay Foundation for Lasting Peace

DURING the past year many people have said, "The UN is a failure. All the delegates ever do is talk, talk, talk. They never settle anything!"

To this criticism others have replied, "Don't give up the ship so soon! Remember the UN is still only an infant. It has already accomplished a fair amount and will do more if we give it our full support."

We generally hear more about the failures of the UN than about its successes. Conflicts among nations, violent arguments, threats of war—all these make big newspaper headlines. The UN's slow, day-by-day work for peace is less spectacular and does not always get the attention it deserves.

It is true, of course, that the UN has not brought the big powers into peaceful agreement on such vital matters as the future of Germany and the control of atomic energy. No one can say that the UN has dispelled the threatening clouds of war. But it has dealt successfully with several international disputes which might have led to war. This article is concerned with the UN's accomplishments. The one on the next page discusses the failures of the organization, and the problems now confronting it.

Iran Incident

Two years ago, for example, Iran complained to the UN Security Council that Russian troops, which had been stationed in the northern part of her territory during the war and which had stayed on afterwards, were supporting a native communist uprising. In spite of Russian protests, the Security Council discussed the matter.

Many people at the time believed that war was certain to break out over the issue, just as there is now a widespread belief that a world conflict may result from the Berlin dispute. But there was no war over Iran because Russia suddenly withdrew her troops from that country. The UN did not take any action, but it is generally believed that the world publicity given to the case by the UN discussion was the main reason for Russia's withdrawal.

Also during 1946, two other Middle Eastern countries, Syria and Lebanon, complained to the Security Council that British and French troops were still on their soil, although these countries had been given their independence two years before. The matter was fully discussed by the Security Council, and as a result the British and French governments agreed to withdraw their troops. Here again the UN apparently settled a dispute simply by bringing it out into the open for discussion.

Early this year the UN actually succeeded in stopping open warfare between the Dutch and Indonesian forces in the Netherlands East Indies. The fighting first broke out in 1946 when the Dutch attempted to return to the islands they had ruled for 300 years but which had been overrun by the Japanese during World War II. The 70 million natives of the East Indies demanded their independence and many of them fought against the return of Dutch officials.

Late in 1947 the Security Council

appointed a "Committee of Good Offices" to go to the islands to help work out a peaceful agreement. After nearly three months of negotiation, a truce was signed and "cease fire" orders were issued by both sides. A permanent peace settlement has not yet been agreed upon, and recently there has been some fighting between rival native groups, but the UN has so far been successful in preventing further war between the Dutch and the Indonesians.

One of the most difficult and perplexing problems yet brought before the UN has been the conflict between Arabs and Jews over the control of

In addition to these examples of UN action to settle disputes between nations, many other accomplishments must be listed to the credit of this world organization. The progress made by its various "specialized agencies" in carrying on relief and reconstruction work, and in promoting better understanding among nations, is an important part of the UN's record of achievement. The field is so wide that only a few examples may be cited here:

Realizing that a hungry world cannot be a peaceful world, the UN has set up a Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to help increase world food production. This agency has dis-

Another UN agency, the World Bank, has lent money to countries which needed it to increase the output of their mines, farms, and factories. Four European nations, France, Denmark, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, have borrowed a total of nearly half a billion dollars to buy machinery, fuel, and fertilizer. These loans have done much to promote recovery.

The International Refugee Organization (IRO) has cared for thousands of Europeans made homeless by the war, and during the past year has assisted about 200,000 persons in finding new homes. It expects to resettle nearly one million "displaced persons" in the next 12 months. At the same time, the International Children's Emergency Fund is providing the food and medical care for 5 million needy children in countries of Europe and the Far East.

Believing that "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be built," the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has already done a great deal to promote education and better understanding among the people of the world. It has sponsored a campaign to send books, paper, pencils and other school supplies to war-torn countries which are trying to restore their schools. It has also encouraged the exchange of ideas among students and teachers throughout the nations of the world.

Many other agencies of the UN are seeking in various ways to contribute to world peace and progress.

UN Agencies

(Concluded from page 1)

The United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, popularly known as UNESCO, is trying to make the various nations better acquainted with one another. It is encouraging the use of radio, newspapers, magazines, and motion pictures in spreading information.

The World Bank and World Fund are two agencies that contribute financial assistance to nations which are in temporary need or which desire to make long-range improvements, such as the building of dams or railways.

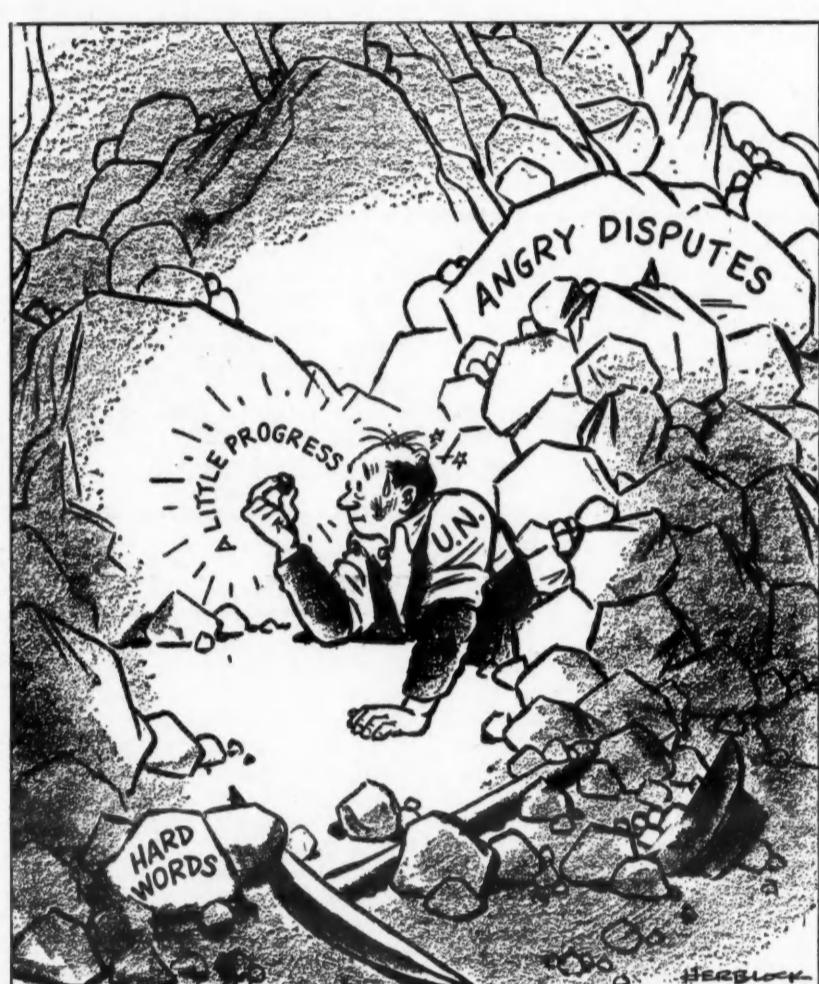
The World Health Organization is seeking to help poorer nations build hospitals, improve sanitation, and raise health standards in general.

The International Refugee Organization, as its name implies, is concerned with finding new homes for war refugees.

The International Trade Organization is attempting to lower world trade barriers, so that nations can exchange goods more freely.

The International Labor Organization, which strives to improve working conditions in countries where they are bad, was formerly affiliated with the League of Nations but is now working with the UN.

There are other smaller UN agencies, but space does not permit any mention of them. They are all working toward the same goal—a better and safer world.



Palestine. A plan for dividing the country between the two sides was worked out by the UN last year, but it did not please either the Jews or the Arabs. When British troops were withdrawn from the area this spring, fighting broke out between the Palestine Arabs, supported by forces from neighboring Arab lands, and the newly proclaimed Jewish state of Israel.

The Security Council intervened at once and attempted to bring about a peaceful settlement. It chose Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden to go to Palestine as a peacemaker. He succeeded in arranging a truce between Jews and Arabs, and had just completed drawing up his recommendations for settling the dispute when he was assassinated last month.

In spite of this tragic occurrence, the Holy Land has been comparatively peaceful in recent weeks. There have been occasional outbreaks of violence, but no full-scale war.

tributed information on how to raise better crops, to prevent and cure livestock diseases, and to keep valuable soil from washing away. The results of these efforts cannot be accurately measured, but it is generally agreed that they have already laid the foundation for larger food crops than are now being raised in many nations.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is working to conquer disease and improve health standards in all parts of the world. It has launched a campaign against tuberculosis in the war-devastated countries of Europe, and against malaria in Greece. Its most spectacular achievement to date was the shipment last year of 32 tons of vaccines and other medical supplies to Egypt by airplane to stop a cholera epidemic in that country. The epidemic was brought under control in 6 weeks, a new record in medical history, and did not spread to other countries.

World Body's Defects and Its Unsolved Issues

East-West Conflict Is Cause of Most United Nations Headaches

THE most challenging problem before the United Nations today is that of trying to prevent a complete split between Russia and the western powers. Soviet officials contend that the United States, Britain, and France are out to destroy the Communist nations. Leaders of these three countries reply that even the Russians themselves don't believe this charge, but that they are making it merely in the effort to cover up their own plans for aggression and world conquest.

Russia's worst accusations have been launched against the United States. She claims that we are preparing to wage an atomic war against her, and that we are using the Marshall Plan to line up European nations with us.

As proof that the United States has had no intention of attacking the Soviet Union, American leaders point to the fact that our country quickly and greatly reduced the size of its military forces after the war. Why, it is asked, would we have weakened our fighting machine to such an extent if we had been thinking in terms of attacking anyone? The record shows, continues the argument, that we did not begin to rearm on a large scale until Russia's aggressive and warlike actions made it necessary.

Vital Problems

Can this feeling of mistrust, rivalry, and antagonism between Russia and the western nations be resolved? It will depend upon the answer to this question whether or not the most vital problems now confronting the United Nations can be worked out on a satisfactory basis. Among these problems are the following:

Veto Power. The large majority of nations in the UN are opposed to communism. When Russia disagrees with the western powers, therefore, she is almost always outvoted. She makes up for this disadvantage in the Security Council by having the veto power. All the Big Five nations—the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China—can veto any action of the Council to which they are opposed.

Time and again Russia has prevented the Security Council from acting in disputes involving the interests of small nations under her control. She is not the only big nation to have employed this weapon, but she has used it much more than the other four major powers combined.

There is a strong movement within the UN, particularly among leaders of the smaller nations, to abolish the veto power. It is argued that this world organization will never be successful if its strongest branch—the Security Council—can be crippled by the vote of one nation every time an emergency arises. The UN will be stronger and better off if it establishes majority rule, it is said, even if such action should drive Russia out of the organization.

Other UN leaders, even though they do not like the veto power, feel that it should be continued for a while longer, at least. They contend that it is better to keep Russia in the UN, where disagreements can be openly debated, than to force her out and thus reduce the chances of ever settling the East-West feud by peaceful means.

Atomic Energy. If the UN sets up an atomic control agency, shall its decisions be made by majority rule, two-thirds rule, or shall the Big Five nations be able to veto decisions they do not like, as they are now able to do in the Security Council? Shall it be agreed in advance that, whatever other rules may be established, the UN atomic control agency will have the right to send inspectors into any country at any time for the purpose of seeing that it is not secretly making atomic weapons?

These are the two all-important issues involved in the dispute over UN control of atomic energy. Russia insists upon having the veto power over atomic decisions, and she is not willing to agree in advance upon the right of UN inspection under *any* and *all* circumstances. She has hinted that she would permit inspection of her territory if proper rules were laid down to keep the inspectors from abusing their privileges.

The United States and most other

to cut their armaments by one-third does not mean a thing unless Russia agrees to give the UN complete power to inspect countries for the purpose of seeing that they are doing what they have agreed to do.

Germany. Russia insists that Britain, France, and the United States had no right to take the Berlin dispute to the UN Security Council. She says it was definitely agreed that all problems affecting defeated lands were to be dealt with by the Big Four-Council of Foreign Ministers, and not by the UN. That is why, Soviet leaders say, they will not take part in any Security Council discussions of the problem.

The western powers agree that the Council of Foreign Ministers were supposed to handle questions relating to defeated lands. At the same time, they contend that Russia, in establishing the Berlin blockade, took a step which "threatens the peace of the world." The Security Council, they say, is supposed to act in such cases.

Certain leaders in the UN have pro-

posed a compromise plan under which the disputants in the Berlin controversy would enter into a three-months' truce. During that time, Russia would lift the blockade, and the western powers would permit the issue to be negotiated by the Big Four Council of Foreign Ministers (Ministers of the United States, Russia, Britain, and France). Whether or not this plan is adopted may be known by the time this paper reaches its readers.

Greece. The General Assembly is to discuss the findings of a special investigating committee which it sent to Greece. If the Assembly comes to the conclusion that the Russian-dominated countries bordering on Greece

have helped the Communist side in the Greek civil war, the Soviet leaders will undoubtedly protest bitterly. What, if any, recommendations the Assembly will make concerning the Greek situation remains to be seen.

Korea. The United Nations, during the summer, supervised free elections in American-occupied southern Korea. While U. S. troops are still in that region, the people are governing themselves.

Russia would not permit the UN to supervise elections in northern Korea, the section she occupies. She says she is going to withdraw her troops from that land before the year is over, but it is known that she will leave behind her a well-trained native army to support the Communist government. There seems little chance, in the near future, that Korea can be united.

These are the most important issues dividing Russia and the western powers, and causing the United Nations a great deal of trouble. Another outstanding problem before the UN is the tragic strife in Palestine, but the Soviet and western leaders have cooperated surprisingly well in dealing with this difficult situation.

For the most part, however, the gap between Russia and the other major powers is wide and deep. It forms the most serious problem before the UN today. If it could be filled, the majority of disputes among UN members could be settled and the danger of war would be removed. But if the conflict between East and West grows worse, it may lead to the destruction of the UN, and very possibly to another devastating war.

Know How

THE next time you find yourself in a restaurant or on a train or any other public place where there is conversation in little groups, just listen a while and you are almost certain to hear some voice raised higher than all the rest. The voice may come from some distance, and yet you will hear it going on and on. Everyone will be conscious of it. It will make the speaker conspicuous.

The loud voice and the loud laugh are ever-present annoyances. Where a number of people are brought together it seems that there is always some individual who attracts attention to himself by his laughter or his form of speaking.

Perhaps Oliver Goldsmith was right when he said, "The loud laugh betrays the vacant mind." But whether or not the individual whose voice is lifted above those of his fellows is a vacant-minded person, he is a source of disharmony. His very presence is an irritation.

One who wishes to fit pleasantly into a group should see to it that his voice harmonizes with other voices and that he does not make himself a nuisance by irritating others when he laughs or speaks. This does not mean that we need to go around whispering or that we can't be hilarious at times, but it is important that we keep our vocal utterances in somewhat the same pitch as do those with whom we are talking.



WILL HE be lost in the chasm?

HERBLOCK IN WASHINGTON POST

non-Communist nations feel that Russia's terms would prevent the UN from successfully controlling atomic energy. Our country, in particular, is determined not to give up its atomic advantage unless Russia agrees to a really effective control program. She must give up her veto power on atomic questions and agree to unlimited inspection, American leaders say, if she wants us to quit making atomic bombs.

Other Armaments. The western nations would like for the UN to limit and control all weapons of war, but they insist that this cannot be done unless Russia shows a genuine willingness to cooperate. They say that the recent Soviet proposal for all nations

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Eight Men Hold News Spotlight at UN's Paris Meeting

AMONG the statesmen who are playing leading roles in the UN meetings at Paris are the Secretary-General, the principal officers of the Security Council and the General Assembly, and the top representatives of the Big Four. Here are brief sketches of these leaders:

Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, might be called the "general manager" of the world organization. He directs the work of the employees who carry out the day-to-day chores of the UN, and makes a yearly report to the General Assembly. He also may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which he considers a threat to the peace and security of the world.

A native of Norway, Lie was an outstanding public official in his home land before taking his present job. He now devotes all his time to the UN.

Warren Austin, chairman of the Security Council during October, is the chief permanent delegate of our country to the United Nations. (Secretary of State Marshall outranks Mr. Austin in the U. S. delegation at Paris, but—unlike Austin—Marshall does not devote his full time to representing this country in the world organization.)

A native of Vermont, Mr. Austin was a Republican member of the Senate for about 15 years before taking over his present post in the summer of 1946. As a Senator, he was known for his interest in and knowledge of

international problems. He is a lawyer by profession.

Herbert Evatt, President of the General Assembly at the Paris session, is a native of Australia. For the past three years, he has been a champion of the "little nations" in the UN, fighting vigorously to keep them from being overshadowed by the larger countries.

The 54-year-old Evatt is a brilliant lawyer and, while still a young

session in 1946. He has been one of the leading advocates of a union of the western European democracies.

Ernest Bevin, Great Britain's top man in international affairs, is a colorful figure with little regard for the niceties of diplomatic language. His oratory is blunt and hard-hitting.

Born in poverty, Bevin went to work at the age of 10. He had made a name for himself as Britain's foremost union organizer when he was

Robert Schuman, French Foreign Minister, came into prominence last November when he became Premier of France. He held that position for about eight months. Now he has the important task of directing foreign affairs in the government headed by Premier Queuille.

Born in Luxembourg, Schuman entered the French parliament soon after the First World War. During the latest conflict he spent some time



Marshall

Austin

Bevin

Schuman

Vishinsky

Evatt

Lie

Spaak

man, was made a judge on the Australian Supreme Court. He resigned this job to go into politics and is now his country's foreign minister. He is an ardent sports fan.

Paul-Henri Spaak, chairman of the Assembly's important Political Committee, is the Premier of Belgium. His committee considers security matters, takes up the admission of new members, and has a number of other duties.

Spaak comes from a prominent Belgian family. His father was a well-known playwright, while his mother was Belgium's first woman senator. A member of the Socialist Party, Spaak has held high government posts since 1935.

The Belgian Premier was president of the General Assembly at its first

called into the wartime cabinet as Labor Minister. In 1945 he became Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. He has read widely to make up for his lack of schooling.

George Marshall, U. S. Secretary of State, received his background for diplomacy as a military man. His name has become known all over the world as a result of the foreign aid program (the "Marshall Plan") which he proposed and which is now being carried out.

Marshall went into the Army immediately after graduating from Virginia Military Institute. He made an excellent record in the First World War and, as Army Chief of Staff in the last global conflict, he proved to be a master planner of large-scale military operations.

in a German concentration camp. He is considered an expert on international law and finance. He belongs to a "middle-of-the-road" political party.

Andrei Vishinsky, the Soviet Union's chief representative at the UN, is a fiery speaker who has represented Russia at numerous international conferences in recent years.

A native of Odessa on the Black Sea, Vishinsky took part in revolutionary activities as a student, and has been a Communist for many years. The most prominent lawyer in the Soviet Union, he attracted attention as government prosecutor during the "spy trials" of the thirties. With the outbreak of World War II, Vishinsky became Molotov's right-hand man in foreign affairs.

—By HOWARD O. SWEET.

International Agency Proposed in 1941

Steps Taken During Next Few Years Led to Adoption of UN Charter

ALTHOUGH most of us think of the United Nations as originating at the San Francisco Conference in 1945, its history can be traced back to earlier meetings held at different stages throughout World War II. At each of these conferences, military strategy was the principal subject under consideration. Nevertheless, some decisions were made which paved the way for the UN.

One of the first official steps toward the establishment of the world organization was the *Atlantic Charter*. This was drawn up during August, 1941, by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill. The two statesmen, at the conclusion of a conference on board the American cruiser Au-

gusta in the North Atlantic, announced that they looked forward to the creation of a "permanent system of general security" after the war.

A few months later, on January 1, 1942, a second step was taken. Delegates of the 26 nations then at war with the Axis powers met in Washington, D. C. President Roosevelt suggested that the group call itself the United Nations. The delegates accepted this suggestion and formulated a statement known as the *Declaration of the United Nations*. In it they agreed to continue the fight against the enemy and to accept the principles of the *Atlantic Charter*.

The *Moscow Conference* in October, 1943, was another milestone in the his-

tory of the UN. At this meeting, the foreign ministers of the United States, Great Britain, Russia, and China declared that they recognized the need for establishing "a general international organization . . . for the maintenance of international peace and security."

As a result of this Moscow declaration, the *Dumbarton Oaks Conference* was held during August and September of 1944, at the historic Dumbarton Oaks mansion in Washington, D. C. There, delegates from China, Great Britain, Russia, and the United States made an outline of a charter, or constitution, for the proposed international organization.

The charter called for a world body to be known as the United Nations. Its major branches were to be a General Assembly, in which all members were to have seats, and a Security Council, in which only 11 nations would be represented. Further decisions on the subject were made in February, 1945, when President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Marshal Stalin met at the *Yalta Conference* in Russia.

The final Charter of the United Nations was drawn up at the *San Francisco Conference*, which began April 25, 1945. This meeting was in reality a world constitutional con-

vention, similar to the Philadelphia convention of 1787 which drafted the Constitution of the United States of America. In San Francisco, representatives of 50 nations, taking the Dumbarton Oaks proposals as a starting point, wrote the UN Charter. On June 26, the document was signed.

Even then, however, the United Nations could not begin its operations, for the Charter had to be approved by a certain number of nations, including China, France, Russia, Great Britain, and the United States, before it could go into effect. The U. S. Senate ratified the Charter on July 28 by an almost unanimous vote. Before the end of October, 28 nations, including all the "Big Five," had given their official approval, and the UN was a reality.

The first session of the General Assembly took place in London on January 10, 1946, and the Security Council met for the first time one week later in that same city.

Since then, the world body has established the various branches and agencies that the Charter called for. Temporary headquarters for the UN have been set up in New York, and work on the permanent home, along New York City's East River, has begun. At the present time, the Assembly and Council are holding sessions in Paris.



THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS—whose headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, are shown in the picture above—was a forerunner of the UN

A Future Career . . . Geologist

ONE of the most important sciences today is geology, and one of the most valued of scientists is the geologist. The geologist studies rock formations and the successive layers that make up the earth's crust. His work is directed toward finding new deposits of metals that our industries need and toward finding new oil fields to replace those that are being depleted.

A geologist also uses his knowledge in other ways. He may, for instance, search for water sources in areas where the land is dry, or he may make tests to determine whether or not a particular location is suitable for proposed buildings.

In the past, industry in the United States has employed relatively few geologists, but this situation is changing at the present time. As the known deposits of oil, copper, iron, and other minerals are used up, the work of finding new ones becomes increasingly important. Then, too, as South America, China, the Middle East, and other regions of the earth begin to develop their resources, more and more men who understand this work are needed. Hence, the occupational outlook for men trained as geologists is exceptionally good.

To qualify for work in this field, a young man must meet several requirements. He must have a scientific mind that will enable him to excel in the study of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and geography—for geology combines the study of all these subjects. He must also be in good health, since his job will keep him out of doors much of the time and will require him to do a great deal of walking, digging, and crawling.

A geologist must have at least a college degree with his major work done in the subjects listed above. Either in college or later at a graduate school a young man going into this work must study the subject of geology itself.

The geologist will find, as do most other scientists, that advanced study greatly increases his earnings and his opportunities for promotion. Usually, a man with a master's degree will earn more and progress faster than one with only a bachelor's degree. A person with a doctor's degree will find better opportunities, generally speaking, than will someone with only a master's.

Work as a geologist offers a number of advantages. It combines mental work with out-of-door life, and often takes a man on long, interesting field trips. Because his duties require the use of a number of sciences, the geolo-

gist has little opportunity to get into a mental "rut."

A trained geologist may find employment in one of a number of fields. He may teach in a college or university. Or he may accept a job with an oil or mining company, where his work will be chiefly in locating and evaluating new pools of oil or new deposits of iron, zinc, or other metals. Work with the state or national governments offers a third field of employment for geologists. Some geologists who have had long experience work independently as consultants for industries that need their services.

Almost all jobs in the geological field require both field and laboratory work. Out of doors the geologist studies rock formation, collects samples of rock and soil, and makes maps that will help him to understand and analyze the layers of rock under the surface of the earth. In the laboratory, he studies the material he has collected and makes chemical tests on rock specimens if that is necessary. He then organizes his findings and draws his conclusions from them. His specific duties, of course, depend upon the particular job he has.

Before the war, incomes of geologists were not as high as were those of other professions requiring an equal amount of training and skill. The increased need for men in this field, however, has resulted in a general rise in their earnings. Even so, a beginning geologist, a young man who has only an A.B. degree, will probably not earn more than \$45 or \$50 a week if he takes a job with a private concern. One who goes to work for the government at the lowest rank will earn about \$55 or \$60 a week.

Experienced geologists with the federal government earn between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year, with the average income being about \$6,500. The maximum yearly salary for a geologist in private industry is about \$15,000 a year. Only a few men earn this amount, though, and the average is probably about \$7,000 a year.

Further information about geology as a career may be obtained from the Geological Society of America, 419 West 117 Street, New York 27, New York.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

The Secretariat of the UN has almost 3,000 employees who speak many languages—Chinese, French, English, Spanish, Dutch, Polish, Russian, or Portuguese. The two languages most used are French and English.



STANDARD OIL OF NEW JERSEY

A GEOLOGIST uses complicated instruments in his search for reservoirs of oil



DRAWING BY JOHNSON
MANY PEOPLE agree and many others disagree with this young man's view. What is your opinion on the subject?

A Lower Voting Age?

Opinion Is Divided on This Question. Step Would Require State Action or Amendment to U. S. Constitution

SHOULD the voting age in the United States be reduced from 21 to 18? "Yes," say many young people who would like to take part in the November balloting, but who are not quite old enough to do so under existing laws. "Yes," say a large number of the young men who are being drafted, and who feel that if they are old enough to fight for their country, they are old enough to vote.

One state—Georgia—permits its young people to begin voting at the age of 18. Senator Arthur Vandenberg of Michigan and certain other members of Congress approve of this idea. In the last session, they introduced legislation calling for a Constitutional amendment which would lower the voting age to 18.

Nothing was done about it, however. If it is voted on by the next Congress, it will, in order to pass, have to be approved by a two-thirds vote in the Senate and the House. If it surmounts that obstacle, it will then have to be acted upon favorably by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states. Meanwhile, any state which desires to act independently on this question may do so, just as Georgia has already done.

While many Americans favor the plan of lowering the voting age, many others oppose it. Let us first hear from the supporters:

"There is no special magic about the age of 21. The framers of the Constitution left it up to each state to decide the age range of its voters. Since England did not permit her people to vote until they were 21, our states followed her custom. Today, however, the starting age for voting ranges from 18 in a number of countries to as high as 25 in Denmark and the Netherlands.

"Young people in this country are fully capable of becoming voters at 18. Although thousands go on to college, the majority of them have completed their school careers and are beginning to earn their living. They undertake definite responsibilities at work and at home.

"Just out of school, they are better informed about current affairs than are many older people. Through their classes, they have kept in close touch with national and world problems.

"If youths could become voters at about the time they leave high school, they could begin to use the knowledge they have gained. On the other hand, when they have to wait for three years to cast their first ballots, they lose interest in public affairs and have little desire to take part in elections.

"It is hard to answer the argument that if 18-year-olds are called upon to fight and die for their country, they should be granted the privilege of voting!"

Now let us hear from the other side in this controversy:

"Young people under 21 have not gained the judgment which a voter should have. The majority are barely gaining a little experience at their first jobs, and many of them will move about a great deal before they settle down permanently to one occupation.

"Between 18 and 21, they will add to the knowledge which they have gained in school. They will learn more about the problems of the farmer, the worker, and the businessman. They need this practical information before they vote.

"While young people today attend school more years on an average than did the young people of past generations, public problems in the early days were much simpler to understand than are those of today. Voters now need all the knowledge and experience they can obtain.

"It would be unwise to lower the voting age simply because we draft boys under 21. The qualities required in military service—youth, strength, and courage—are not the most essential qualities needed for intelligent voting."

Such are the two points of view. How do you feel on the subject? Why not write your opinions to the "Readers Say" column?

This summer 54 young people from 32 countries spent eight weeks working for the Secretariat of the United Nations. Although they were employees of the UN, they received no pay for their work. The young men and women were selected by the governments of various nations to study the "inside" of the United Nations by taking part in its work.

The Story of the Week



A TOWN has been set up near Shanghai for homeless Chinese boys. More than 2,000 are given homes there and they are taught vocations. The boys in this picture are learning to make and repair shoes.

Mobile Radios

Every one of the 48 states may, in the future, have a network of moving radio stations, operated from trucks and cars. The nation's highway officials are now working toward that objective. The purpose of such a network would be to provide speedy communications for police officials in tracking down criminals who travel over a wide area, to combat forest and prairie fires, and to deal with other similar problems.

At present, California, Washington, Pennsylvania, and a number of other states already have mobile radio networks which are proving highly valuable. They are helping to apprehend criminals, and are enabling roving police cars to reach the scene of floods and other disasters in record time.

The Army hopes that all states will set up such a network and wants to link them up in a single, nation-wide system. In the event of war or some other national calamity, vehicles equipped with transmitting and receiving radios would be of great help in coping with the situation. The value of the system was proved—on a state-wide scale—earlier this year during the disastrous Columbia River floods.

Timber Shortage

A lack of timber is today delaying recovery in many parts of the world. Nearly all the countries of western Europe need lumber badly for building homes, factories, ships, and dozens of other things. Most of these nations are looking to the United States to help supply this need even though the timber situation in America is now at the most critical stage in history.

According to government studies, we are cutting our timber in this country $1\frac{1}{2}$ times as fast as we are growing it. In recent years great inroads have been made on our forest reserves, and today the United States has 10 per cent less lumber than it had just before World War II. If we continue to use our timber at the present rate, experts fear that in another generation the shortage in this country may be as acute as it now is in western Europe.

The U. S. Forest Service is making an intensive effort to remedy this situation. It has proposed a huge

planting program and is campaigning to reduce the enormous waste that takes place annually in the lumbering process. It is also trying to extend and improve the fire protection given our woodlands. By such methods as these, it hopes eventually to increase the yearly timber yield of our forests to 72 million board feet. The present growth is only about half that figure.

Peru Calms Down

Things seem to be quiet in Peru once more, following the recent, short-lived revolt. The uprising was undertaken by sailors and armed civilians. Most of the brief fighting took place in Lima and the near-by seaport of Callao. The revolt was quickly put down by the Peruvian government, which used planes to attack rebel-held navy ships.

The uprising came as a climax to political dissensions which have troubled the South American country for many months. Deep-set differences between the leading political parties have caused a stalemate in the government, and have made it almost impossible to carry out legislation.

Jose Bustamante, president of Peru, charges that the Apra Party—a group which has advocated sweeping changes in the government—was behind the revolt. As a result, the party has been

outlawed, and many of its members have been arrested. Although the Apra Party has worked for radical changes, most observers do not consider it a Communist-backed group.

Foreign Policy Dispute

Was President Truman right or wrong when he recently decided that it would be a good idea to send Fred Vinson, Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, to Russia for the purpose of talking with Stalin about the Berlin crisis and international control of atomic energy?

This question has been the subject of heated discussion and debate during the last week. Opponents of the President's plan, including Secretary of State Marshall, feel that irreparable damage would have been done if Mr. Vinson had been sent to Russia. (The President dropped the idea after talking with Secretary Marshall.)

In the days that have followed, a storm of controversy has taken place over the issue. Supporters of the President's plan have this to say in defense of it:

"Chief Justice Vinson, throughout his public career, has proved to be a master negotiator. At a time when the world is on the brink of a terrible atomic war, he might have been able

to reach an understanding with the Soviet dictator.

"At least no harm could possibly have come from his trying. When we know that an atomic conflict might destroy civilization, no stone should be left unturned in the effort to avoid war.

"President Truman, instead of being criticized, should be praised for making every possible attempt to bring Russia and the western world closer together. If he had sent Chief Justice Vinson on this mission and war with Russia nevertheless broke out later on, the American people would then know beyond doubt that their government had done everything possible to avoid such a catastrophe."

Critics of the President's plan argue their case as follows:

"The western powers have tried time and again to negotiate with Russia, but the leaders of that country have stalled, have gone back on their previous bargains, and have proceeded with their aggressive acts. That is why American, French, and British leaders finally asked the UN to deal with the Berlin crisis.

"If, right after this step was taken, the President had sent Chief Justice Vinson to Russia, it would definitely appear that we did not have confidence in the UN. Furthermore, Truman did not even consult Britain or France about the plan.

"Had the President's proposal been carried out, the UN would have lost prestige, Britain and France would have lost confidence in us, and Russia's position would have been greatly strengthened."

In Time of Need

Community Chest campaigns are getting under way in many cities and towns throughout the country. Now an established American custom, the Community Chest is an outgrowth of the old frontier tradition of neighbors helping one another in time of need. Since the idea was first tried out in Denver, Colorado, in 1887, it has spread to more than 1,000 American communities.

Under the plan, local leaders determine the health, welfare, and recreational needs of their city or town for a year in advance. They then coordinate the efforts of organizations that

THE FIFTY-EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

	<i>Area in sq. mi.</i>	<i>Population</i>		<i>Area in sq. mi.</i>	<i>Population</i>		<i>Area in sq. mi.</i>	<i>Population</i>
Afghanistan	250,000	10,000,000	Ethiopia	350,000	9,000,000	Paraguay	149,807	1,100,000
Argentina	1,072,746	14,000,000	France	213,000	41,000,000	Peru	482,258	7,395,000
Australia	2,975,000	7,364,000	Greece	50,000	7,336,000	Philippines	115,600	16,971,000
Belgium	11,775	8,334,000	Guatemala	48,290	3,450,000	Poland	124,642	32,107,000
Bolivia	416,040	3,500,000	Haiti	10,700	3,500,000	Saudi Arabia	1,000,000	7,000,000
Brazil	3,286,170	45,000,000	Honduras	59,161	1,200,000	Siam	200,148	15,718,000
Burma	261,610	16,824,000	Iceland	39,709	127,000	Sweden	173,347	6,000,000
Byelo-Russia	*49,022	*5,567,976	Dom. of India	865,000	300,000,000	Syria	60,000	3,000,000
Canada	3,467,000	11,507,000	Iran	628,000	15,000,000	Turkey	296,000	18,871,000
Chile	286,396	5,237,000	Iraq	117,000	3,700,000	Ukrainian S.S.R.	*171,700	*37,960,221
China	4,480,992	450,000,000	Lebanon	3,600	1,175,000	Un. of S. Africa	473,000	11,248,000
Colombia	439,828	9,800,000	Liberia	43,000	1,500,000	U. S. S. R.	8,348,000	193,198,000
Costa Rica	23,000	725,000	Luxembourg	1,000	301,000	United Kingdom	94,279	47,786,000
Cuba	44,218	4,770,000	Mexico	758,000	19,474,000	United States	2,977,127	146,571,000
Czechoslovakia	49,000	14,200,000	Netherlands	12,712	9,076,000	Uruguay	72,153	2,200,000
Denmark	16,575	4,000,000	New Zealand	103,000	1,631,000	Venezuela	352,143	4,000,000
Dominican Rep.	19,332	1,990,000	Nicaragua	57,915	1,380,000	Yemen	75,000	3,500,000
Ecuador	115,830	3,171,000	Norway	124,556	3,000,000	Yugoslavia	95,558	16,000,000
Egypt	386,000	17,423,000	Pakistan	231,000	70,600,000			
El Salvador	13,000	1,830,000	Panama	28,575	631,700			

Some figures are for pre-war areas and populations. *Included in figures for U. S. S. R.

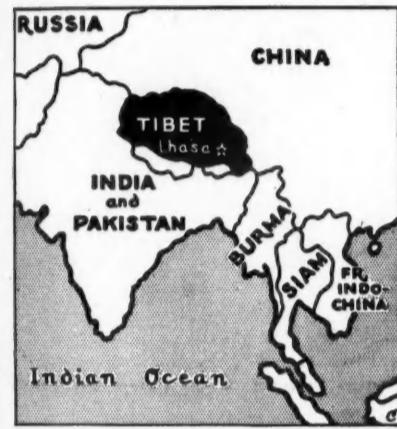
are working to fulfill these needs. Hundreds of volunteers contribute their services in a fund-raising campaign. The collected contributions are then allocated to the various agencies in accordance with their needs.

The success of the Community Chest in each town and city depends on the degree of support given by the citizens in the fund-raising drive. Students can help by making themselves well informed about their local campaign and then by encouraging its progress in every way.

In recent years the Community Chest idea has spread overseas. The familiar red feather—symbol of the Community Chest—is seen in Finland, South Africa, and a number of other countries. Berlin had its first drive of this kind last fall.

Land of Mystery

In remote, mysterious Tibet, the people are carefully examining catalogues that picture American goods. These catalogues were brought to them by a group of Tibetans who visited the United States recently to see about



TIBET has not traded much in the past with the outside world. Is the nation now going to change its habits?

the possibility of trading with our country. Their trip here was quite a surprise, because Tibet has been reluctant to adopt the ideas or use the products of foreigners. In fact the leaders of that land have been very hostile to outsiders.

Shut away from her neighbors by some of the highest mountains on earth, including the towering Himalayas, she is practically an independent nation. Maps, though, generally show Tibet as part of China. Nobody knows how many people she has, and guesses on her population range from 700,000 to 6,000,000. The country covers an area about equal to that of Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma combined. Much of the land is three miles or more above sea level.

Tibet is dry and cold. If she has great mineral wealth, it has not yet been discovered. Her people raise some grain and fruit in the valleys, tend sheep and long-haired yaks, weave rugs and other woolen products, and make decorations for use in their temples.

Trade between Tibet and the United States, if it develops, may bring some unusual products to our shores. In addition to quantities of wool, we are likely to receive Tibetan jewelry, hand-woven carpets, and yak hair for use as Santa Claus beards.

Wanted: Party Workers

In a recent article in the *New York Times Magazine*, James Burns, a Williams College professor, emphasizes the need of having more citizens par-

ticipate in party politics within their communities. Our parties can be strengthened only by those who work within them, he says.

How can one get started in party politics on the community level? The first step, says Mr. Burns, is for the citizen to offer his services to the party of his choice through its local chairman. Since there is always much work to be done during a campaign—addressing envelopes, arranging meetings, inducing people to vote, and so on—the citizen's offer to help will be gratefully received. Many communities have special groups—for example, the Young Democrats and Young Republicans—which offer good opportunities for party service.

One should not be discouraged from taking part in politics because there seems to be a disreputable group controlling the organization, says Mr. Burns. It is far easier to clean the organization from within than from without. In working to build a stronger party, the citizen will find that he is taking part in a rewarding business—one which will help to bring about a more effective political system in the years to come, and will greatly strengthen democratic government.

Want a "Pen Pal"?

Do you want an overseas "pen pal"? The U. S. Office of Education is now distributing thousands of letters from boys and girls abroad who have accepted the invitation of the Voice of America—our government's overseas radio program—to write to young people in the United States. These letters are from Germany, Austria, Great Britain, France, Australia, Japan, and many other countries.

If you want to reply to one of these letters, write to the Division of International Educational Relations, U. S. Office of Education, Washington 25, D. C. Specify your age, sex, grade in school, and any special interests you may have. You may designate the country in which you hope to have a correspondent.

Most letters from abroad are in English, but some are in native languages. If you prefer a letter in a foreign language, be sure to specify which one. Upon receiving your request, the Office of Education will "pair" your letter with that of a for-



ACME PHOTO FROM MECHANIX ILLUSTRATED
WILL IT BE BUILT? An artist has drawn his vision of a super dirigible that might be used for launching atomic weapons at targets anywhere in the world. It could circle the globe at high speed and would carry its own fighter escort planes. However, no branch of the service has revealed plans for any such ship.

sign student of approximately the same age, interests, and so on. That agency cannot guarantee to follow your preferences in every respect, but will do so insofar as possible.

Teachers may make group requests for an entire class or school. They should be sure to give the exact number of students who want "pen pals" as well as the information previously mentioned concerning age, sex, special interests, and language preferences.

Plan for Presidents

An interesting proposal involving former Presidents of the United States was recently advanced by Senator Robert Taft of Ohio. One of the Republican leaders in Congress, Mr. Taft thinks that a Chief Executive should, upon ending his term as President, become a member of the Senate.

Under the Taft proposal, an ex-President would not represent any state but would be known as a "Senator-at-large." Although he would not have the right to vote, it is held that his experience in the presidency would make it possible for him to be of invaluable aid in giving advice on proposed legislation. The suggestion may come up at the next Congress.

Only two men in the U. S. have ever served in Congress after retiring as Chief Executive. They were John Quincy Adams and Andrew Johnson.

Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are to be found on page 8, column 4.

1. We wondered afterwards if he would take our statement as an *affront* (ä-frönt'). (a) inquiry; (b) insult; (c) warning; (d) agreement.

2. He described her as a *bigot* (big'ut). (a) beautiful person; (b) tall person; (c) intolerant person; (d) small person.

3. I intend to make *cartography* (kar-tög'ra-fy) my career. (a) law; (b) map-making; (c) the study of X-rays; (d) history.

4. Don't you think the decorations in this room are too *flamboyant* (fläm-boy'änt)? (a) old; (b) modern; (c) colorful; (d) ornate.

5. The artist played his violin with a great deal of *verve* (vérve). (a) skill; (b) enthusiasm; (c) ignorance of the music; (d) nervousness.

6. Mary will *rue* (rū) the decision she just made. (a) be happy about; (b) reconsider; (c) regret; (d) stick to.

To Tussle or Cooperate?

By Walter E. Myer

WHEN dogs play, they pretend to fight. They snarl, snap, bark, roll over, lunge at each other's throats. They bite, but not very hard. They don't take their antics seriously, but they go through the motions of mortal combat. So do cats, horses, lions, tigers and other members of the animal kingdom, especially the young.

It is the same with children. At play time they push, shove, tussle, wrestle. Sometimes when they get a little rough, anger develops and there is a moment of actual combat, but for the most part the playground is a field of pretended conflict.

A little later in life the pseudo-fighting takes the form of organized games such as football, but the form and spirit of conflict are maintained. At this stage mental as well as physical combat appears.

Young people at the high school level still play fighting games, but they also engage in mental gymnastics. They try

to overcome each other in argument. They carry the fighting impulse into forensic contests. They debate, not so much to gain information and to discover the truth about problems, as to prove that they can beat the other fellow. The typical high school debate is a battle of wits, but the battle idea prevails as surely as it does in the play of children and animals.

Such debates fill a useful place. When the fighting spirit is aroused, when the debater is using all his powers to overcome an opponent, body and mind operate at full speed. One thinks quickly. His mental powers are sharpened. Exercise, accompanied by emotion, is an effective stimulant.

Debate carried on as a form of combat is all right in its place. It is good exercise and good fun. It is sport on a high level but it is play and not serious business. It has nothing to do, or very little to do with the discovery of truth and with the solving of today's grave and

serious problems.

Debate on a higher level is a form of co-operative thinking. When a serious-minded individual engages in discussion he looks upon the other fellow, not as an antagonist, not as an enemy, but as a co-worker. Both parties to the discussion are trying to obtain more information and to become acquainted with new ideas. Each expects to profit by the discussion. Each has something to offer and something to receive. They are working together to gain a better understanding of difficult problems.

In this world there is a place for play and a place for work. It is all right to pattern some of our activities after the play of children and animals, but the great problems of our time will not be solved that way. Our fighting instinct must give way to a cooperative spirit.



Walter E. Myer

American Presidents

Franklin D. Roosevelt

NO U. S. President ever held office for a longer time than Franklin D. Roosevelt. He not only broke tradition by winning election for a third term but was also elected for a fourth term. His years in office covered a large part of the depression era of the 1930's and all but the closing months of World War II.

Born at Hyde Park, New York, on January 30, 1882, he was the only son of a well-to-do family. After receiving his early education from tutors, he studied at Harvard, where he served as editor of the college newspaper. While he was still in college, his distant cousin, Theodore Roosevelt, became President of the United States.

After studying law at Columbia University and being admitted to the bar in New York, Roosevelt decided to



FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, thirty-first President of the United States

enter politics. In 1910 he campaigned for the state Senate by driving an automobile (which many people then considered a dangerous, new-fangled invention) from house to house throughout his district. He surprised everyone by winning election as a Democrat in a traditionally Republican area.

After the election of Woodrow Wilson to the presidency two years later, Roosevelt was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy and served in that post through the first World War. In 1920 he was nominated for Vice President on the Democratic ticket headed by James M. Cox of Ohio, but failed of election. The following year he was suddenly stricken with infantile paralysis. Both his legs were paralyzed and his political career was apparently at an end.

But Roosevelt refused to give up. He immediately began a long, uphill fight to regain his health. His success was remarkable, although he never regained full use of his legs. He soon took an interest in politics again and in 1928 was elected Governor of his home state. Four years later he was nominated for President and won a victory over Herbert Hoover, who had served one term in the White House.

During his campaign, Roosevelt had called for a "New Deal" for the American people. Coming into office in the midst of the depression in 1933, he tried to stimulate confidence by saying: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." With this slogan as his watchword, he had the government take one step after another to increase employment, raise wages, help the farmers, and provide social security.

The "New Deal" was based on the idea that the federal government should play a very active role in meeting the problems of the depression. Billions of dollars were spent by the Roosevelt administration to provide relief for the needy and jobs for the unemployed, and one government agency after another was created to deal with the pressing economic problems of the day.

Opponents of the "New Deal" declared that the government was regulating industry and agriculture "excessively" and was heading in the direction of "socialism." In spite of this opposition, President Roosevelt was re-elected in 1936, 1940, and 1944.

Near the end of Roosevelt's second term, war broke out in Europe. For two years our country stayed out of the fighting but gave economic aid to the Allied powers. The nation was finally drawn into the conflict by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and by Germany's and Italy's declarations of war.

President Roosevelt did not live to see the day of final victory. He died on April 12, 1945, when American troops in Germany were within 60 miles of Berlin and when victory over Japan was only a few months away. Vice President Harry S. Truman immediately took the oath of office as the nation's thirty-second President.

—By HARRY C. THOMSON.

During 1947, the United States contributed nearly two-fifths of the money needed to run the United Nations. China, France, and Russia each contributed almost one-sixteenth of the total, while the United Kingdom gave about one-tenth. Altogether the cost of running the world organization for a year is about \$28 million—a small sum compared to the billions that war costs.

Our Readers Say—

With respect to your article on the recent congressional investigations, I would like to advance this opinion:

I think that the former Communists who now accuse reputable government officials of taking part in a conspiracy to overthrow the government are doing so for personal reasons. They are seeking publicity as well as "political and monetary" gains.

Should we, as patriotic Americans, believe these Communist opportunists rather than our leaders with good records? I think not.

VINCE ARASKOG,
Ferus Falls, Minnesota.

I cannot understand why we are giving aid to Portugal, which sympathized with the Nazis and yet refuse to help the Latin American countries, which were our wartime allies. Latin America, on the whole, is more likely to be "a friend in need" when we want one.

I grant that Portugal did let us use the Azores during the war, but I do not consider that sufficient reason to include her in the European Recovery Program. Latin America helped us too and it deserves better treatment from us than it has so far had.

PATSY MOORE,
Beaumont, Texas.

Concerning your article on the housing situation, our class in United States history had a rather lively debate recently on the political aspects of the issue. We all agreed, however, that the housing shortage should be solved immediately



"Have much trouble bringing him in?"

SMILES

Young Bride: "I cooked a spongecake for you, darling, but it didn't turn out right. I think the grocer sent me the wrong kind of sponges."

Teacher: "If a farmer sold 1,470 bushels of wheat at \$2.89 a bushel, what would he get?"
Boy: "An automobile."

Father, why do you insist on my singing when Mr. Bimley calls?"
Well, I don't like the fellow, and yet I hate to come right out and tell him to go."

Mrs. Youngwife: "My husband is a very influential man in politics."
Neighbor: "You don't say."
Mrs. Youngwife: "Yes. George has voted in two presidential elections, and both times it has gone the way he voted."

Jimmie: "What's horse sense, Pop?"
Pop: "Something that keeps horses from betting on people."

Polite Host: "It's raining pretty hard—don't you think you ought to stay with us for dinner?"
Thoughtless Guest: "Oh, I don't think it's raining hard enough for that."

The window of a store which went bankrupt after only a few weeks of business carried the following sign:
"Opened by mistake."

and not be used as a political football in the presidential campaign.

ERWIN JOHNSON,
Boise, Idaho.

I would like to comment on your cartoon in the September 27th issue, in which Stalin is portrayed as an aviator rounding up his parrots (overrun nations). I hope that soon he will have so many birds on one side of the perch that it will break and the birds will be able to escape into a free and democratic world.

DON MEMLER,
Dixon, Illinois.

(Address your letters to: Readers Say, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)



Study Guide

United Nations

1. What is the principal duty of the UN Security Council?
2. Give two reasons explaining why the Council has had trouble in carrying out this duty.
3. How has the General Assembly proved itself to be an effective body?
4. Must all disputes between nations be taken to the International Court?
5. What division of the UN is chiefly concerned with the world's social and economic problems?
6. Describe the work of the UN Secretariat.
7. Tell of one instance in which action by the UN is credited with having prevented a serious conflict.
8. Describe the work of at least two of the UN's specialized agencies.
9. Herbert Evatt of Australia has been the outstanding spokesman for what group of nations within the UN?
10. When was the term "United Nations" first used?
11. What are the general accusations that Russia makes against the United States in UN speeches?
12. How do American leaders reply to these charges?
13. What are the two big issues involved in UN atomic control?

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not feel that the accomplishments of the UN up to now offer some encouragement for the future of that organization?
2. Which side do you take in the dispute over whether the veto power should be eliminated at once?
3. What is your opinion of the U. S. position on UN control of atomic energy? Of Russia's position?

Miscellaneous

1. Why may the United States soon be faced with a shortage of lumber?
2. What are the conflicting reactions to President Truman's suggestion that Mr. Vinson be sent to Moscow for talks about the Berlin crisis?
3. What proposal has Senator Taft of Ohio made that would affect former Presidents of the United States?
4. How can a person, besides voting, take part in local political activities?
5. What surprising step has Tibet recently taken?

References

"It's Not the Machinery at Fault—It's the Men Not Working," by Ernest Bevin, *United Nations World*, October, 1948. Britain's Foreign Minister believes the split between East and West can be healed within the present machinery of the world organization.

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"Why Can't Peace Make Headlines?" by Gertrude Samuels, *New York Times Magazine*, August 1, 1948. Discussion of the UN's public information section.

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Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (b) insult; 2. (c) intolerant person; 3. (b) map-making; 4. (d) ornate; 5. (b) enthusiasm; 6. (c) regret.